

- (2) Addition to, and improvement of, the Police Force in the Kolar Gold Fields and appointment of special detectives;
- (3) The improvement of roads in the said tract;
- (4) The reduction of fares on mining materials, coal, machinery, timber and firewood on the Kolar Gold Fields Railway; and
- (5) The appointment of a qualified Mining Inspector.
(For the full text of Captain Pryor's address see Appendix B.)

Reply of Government.—Special protective legislation for the mines is receiving particular attention. The Draft Regulation originally prepared has had to be largely added to, so as to protect all interests. As regards protection of mining materials within a specified local area, the revised Draft Regulation proceeds on the lines suggested by Captain Pryor. A copy of this Draft Regulation will be forwarded to the Mining Board for any suggestions they might wish to make.

The improvement of the Special Police employed on the Kolar Gold Fields and of the roads serving that tract will receive every possible attention.

As regards reduction of Railway fares on the branch Railway, newly constructed by the State, the matter is one which involves very special considerations, but the wishes of the Mining Board will be borne in mind.

Dr. Evans of the Mysore Geological Survey has already been deputed to inspect the Mines on several occasions. It is proposed to appoint him as "Inspector of Mines" and to invest him with definite functions under the Regulation before alluded to.

Subject No. 2.

Matters connected

with the Assembly—

(a) Casual vacancies,

Summary of discussion.—Rules should be framed to fill up temporary vacancies in the membership of the D. R. Assembly.

Reply of Government.—This suggestion will be duly considered when the present rules come under revision. But casualties during the three years of membership will be very few, and as the number of members is large, a difference of opinion might well exist as to the real need for filling up vacancies for the purpose of the second and third years' meetings.

(b) Recognition of a Standing Committee by the Government; or meetings of the Assembly twice a year.

Summary of discussion.—Mr. A. Ramanna asked that the Government might recognize a Standing Committee of the Representative Assembly. He said such a Committee was really required to represent the Assembly whose members were scattered throughout the State. He quoted from the Dewan's remarks in the Proceedings of 1891 in favor of such an Assembly and added that copies of the Proceedings used to be sent to the Committee till 1893. In 1894, a large meeting of the Committee was held at which 120 members were present. The Standing Committee had no desire to arrogate to itself any powers, but proposed only to act on behalf of absent members.

It need not be made up of lawyers only. There was doubtless some diversity of opinion on the subject among the members, but the majority were in favor of such a Committee which would send round notices of proposed meetings to absent members and would be the means of bringing before the Government all the year round the views of the Assembly on particular matters as they arise. As an alternative, he suggested that two meetings of the Assembly be held every year instead of only one.

Mr. Venkatakrishnaiya also spoke on the same subject and said he was Secretary to the Standing Committee appointed by the Representatives.

Reply of Government.—The Standing Committee is not an institution which the Government can recognize. As regards the suggested alternative, the Government are of opinion that two meetings in the year would involve an undue expenditure of the time of the Government, and cannot, for that reason, be allowed.

(c) Restriction of each member to two subjects only.

Summary of discussion.—Some members speak on a long list of subjects. It is desirable to restrict each to only two subjects, as in that way every member will have an opportunity of speaking in the Assembly, and some members who take up the time of the Assembly with matters which do not interest the general body of the members will have less opportunity for doing so.

Reply of Government.—Such a restriction seems inexpedient on various grounds. Some members prefer to remain silent. Undue demands upon the time of the Assembly by any member will always be discouraged.

(d) Right of Interpellation.

Summary of discussion.—The Government should concede to the members of the Assembly the right of interpellation, that is, the right to ask the Government for information in regard to matters of public interest and to the action and policy of the Government in such matters.

Reply of Government.—The members are already afforded every reasonable opportunity to make themselves acquainted with matters of public interest, and their representations regarding general and local wants of a public character are duly considered. Even in the much smaller Legislative Councils of British India, the list of questions put has to be previously approved.

(e) Change of designation of Assembly.

Summary of discussion.—The name of the Assembly is "Assembly of Representative Raiyats and Merchants from all Taluks of the State of Mysore." This is not appropriate and may be changed into "Representative Assembly of Mysore."

Reply of Government.—It is inexpedient to change the name, as such a change might be misunderstood as meaning an alteration of the original constitution and functions of the Assembly.